# Community Salmon Investigations for Highline

CSI: Highline

7<sup>th</sup> Annual Orientation & Training Workshop
October 3, 2016

Elissa Ostergaard Miller-Walker Basin Steward, King County

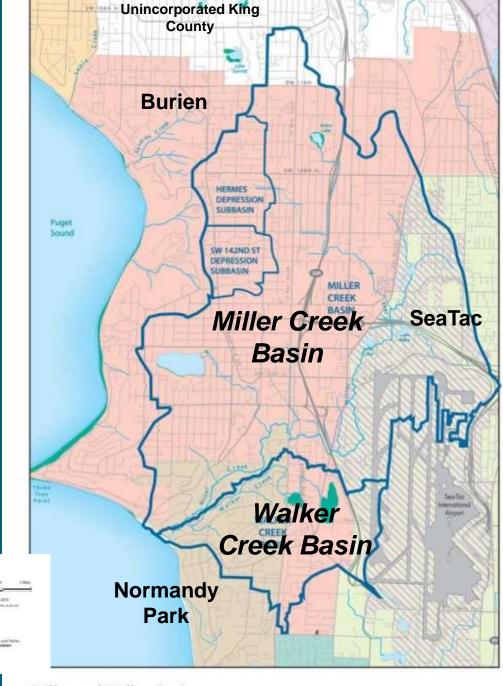
#### Agenda

- Why count & cut open salmon?
- How to survey
- Safety Requirements & Emergency Procedures
- Salmon & Redd identification tips & practice
- Carcass necropsy for "pre-spawn mortality"
- Submitting data web form online & accounts for new volunteers
- Teams & scheduling, turn in waivers
- Pick up survey kits & vests





Basin
Boundaries for
Miller and
Walker Creeks



Legend

Burlien King Courty (unincorporated) Freeways & Arterials Local Roads

Normandy Park Local Roads

Fort of Seattle Property Railroads

Seattle Basin Boundary Pipes

Takin/la Subtrain Boundary SAO Wetlands

Des Moines Streams & Waterline Man-mude Features

20 1/4 12 24 1.00m.

Consider days 1.00A, updated April 1.00A, updated A

Separated of Religion Resources and Revolu-Water and Land Resources Strikker

## Basin Monitoring Coordination Workshops with Dennis Clark, Fall 2008



#### Activities and Purpose of CSI: Highline

- Count adult salmon indicators of the health of the ecosystem
- Document rate of coho "pre-spawn mortality" and see how pollution prevention helps
- Raise the awareness about the streams in the community

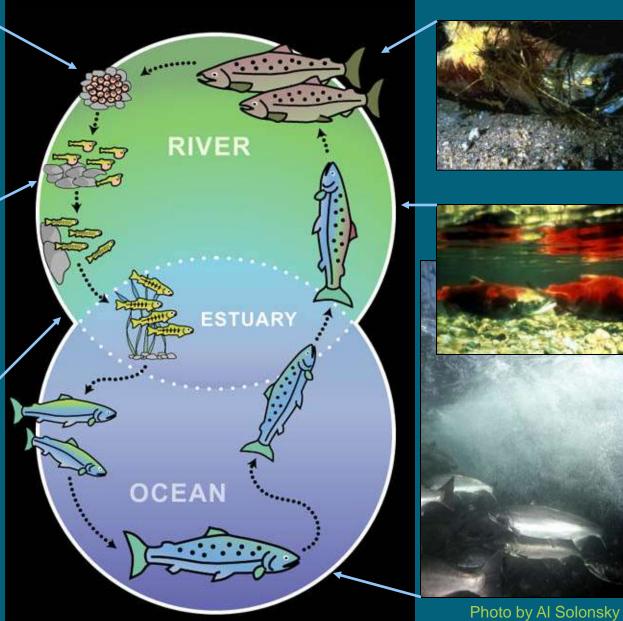
#### Life Cycle of Pacific Salmon



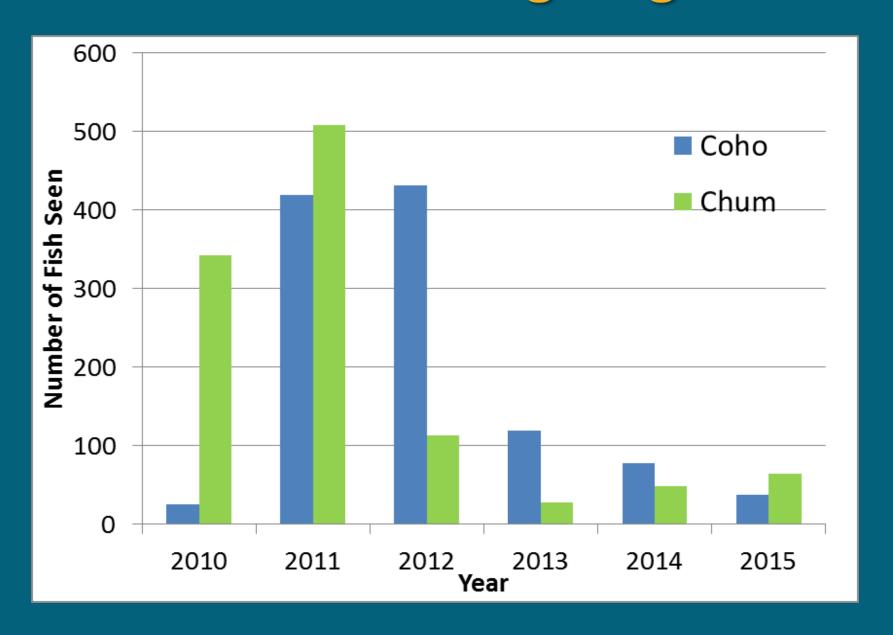




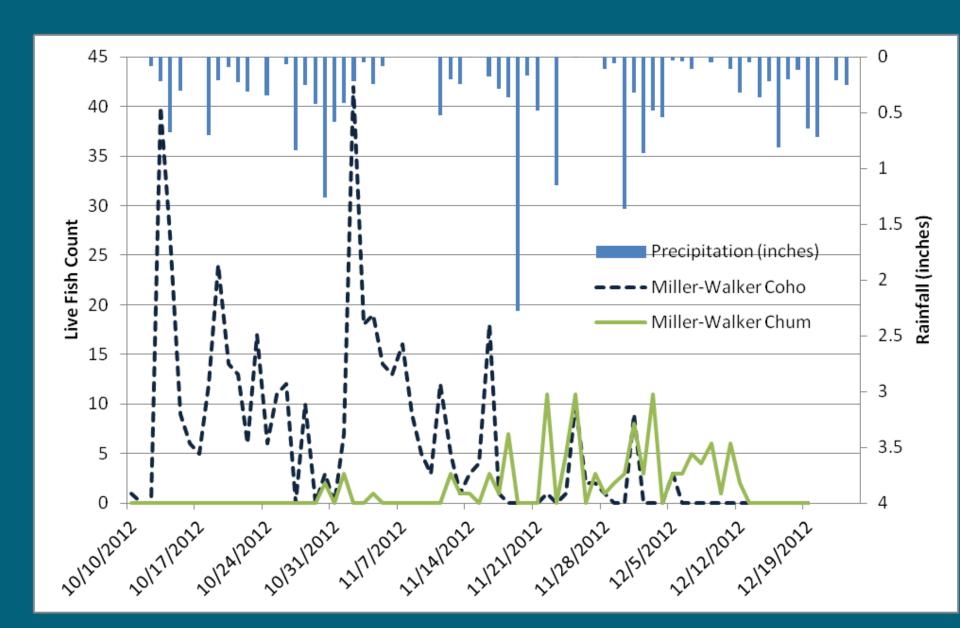
Photo by Hans Berge



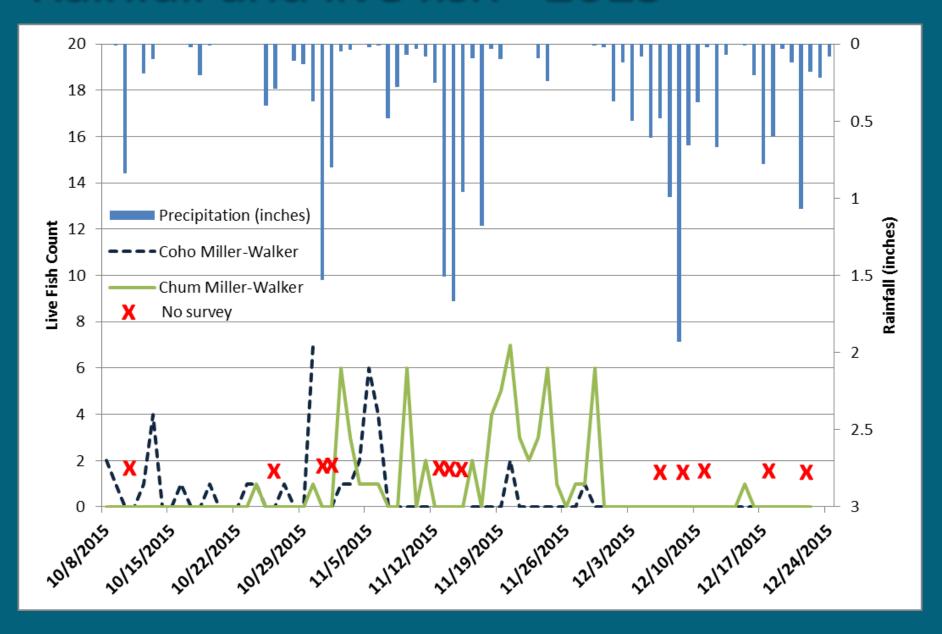
#### Results: 2010-2015 Sightings



#### Rainfall and live fish - 2012

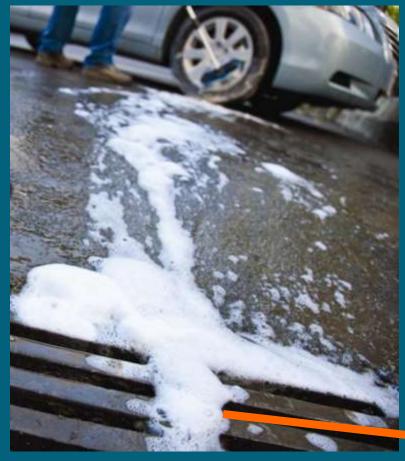


#### Rainfall and live fish - 2015

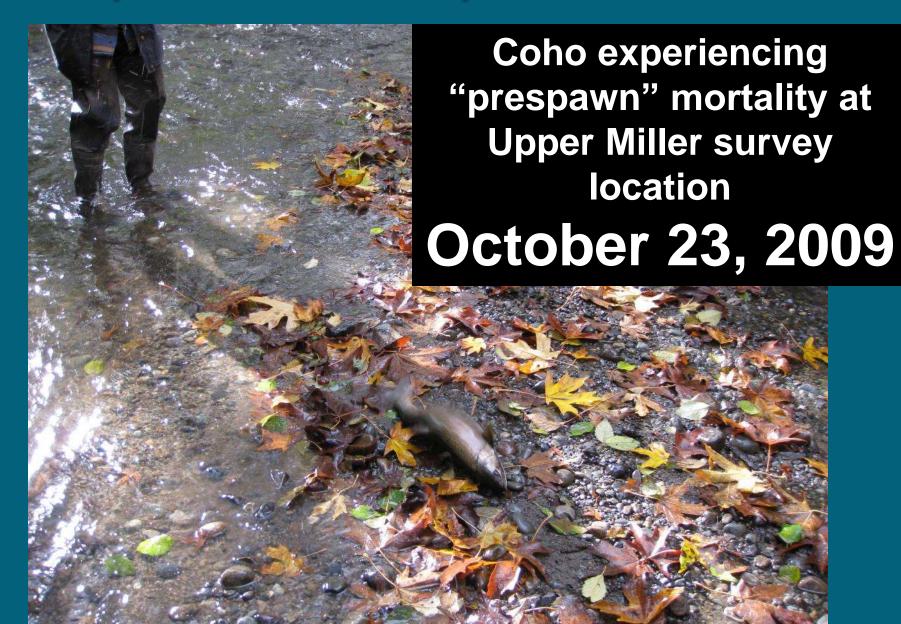


# Stormwater is not treated



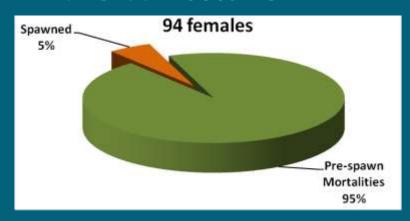


#### Prespawn Mortality

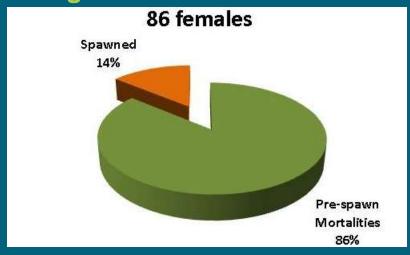


## Coho: Spawning Success in 2012: Miller/Walker and Nearby

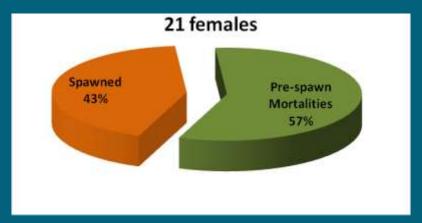
#### Miller Creek- 95% PSM



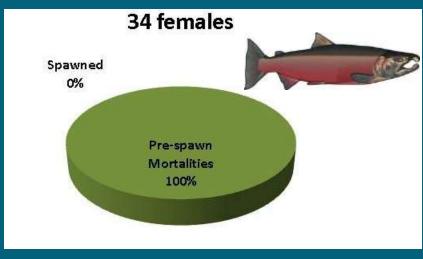
#### **Longfellow Creek – 86% PSM**



#### Walker Creek – 57% PSM



#### Des Moines - 100% PSM

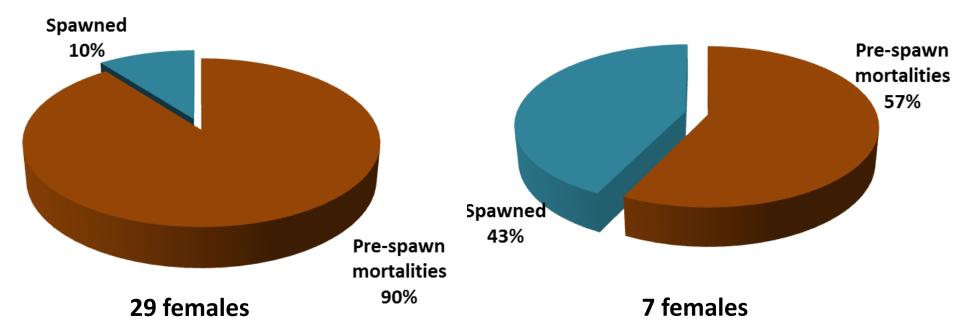


#### Coho: 2014 Pre-Spawn Mortality

Miller Creek 90% PSM

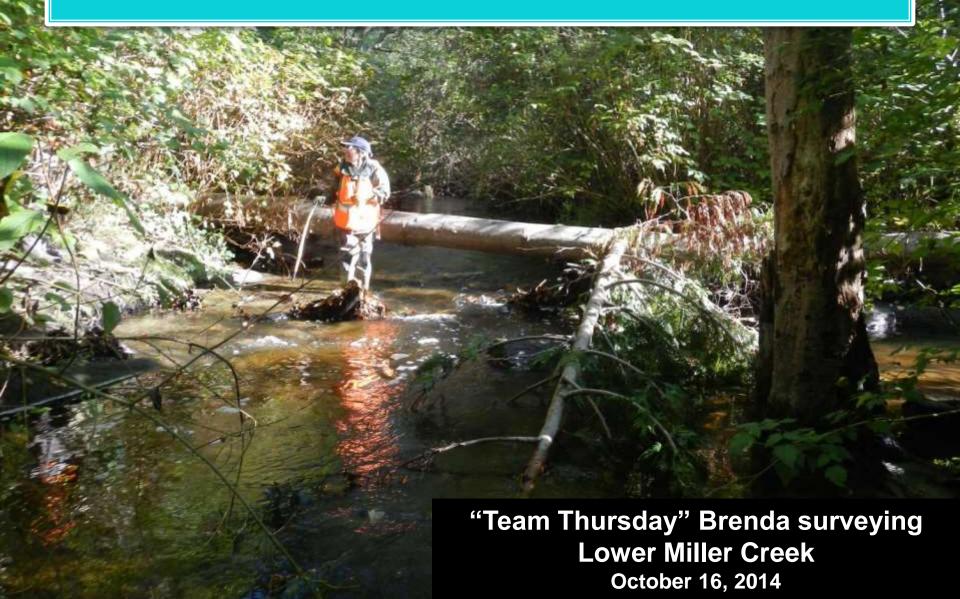


Walker Creek
57 % PSM



Overall coho pre-spawn mortality: 83%

## 2) How to Survey



## CSI: Highline – When

When do we start surveys?

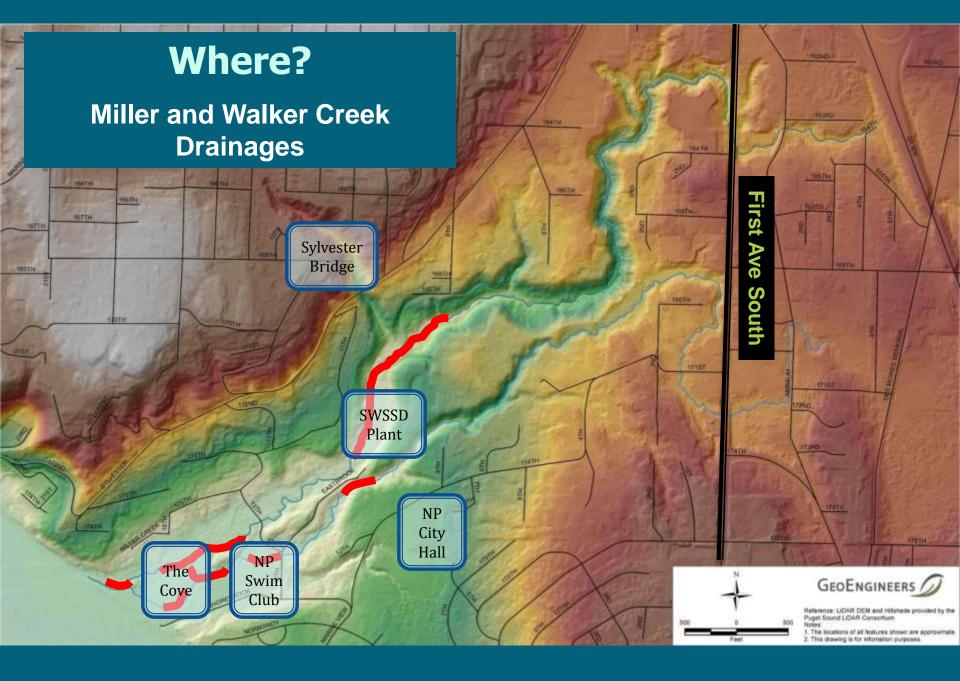
Saturday, October 8

How often do we survey?

- A team will survey EVERY DAY (unless it is bad weather)
- Each team will survey once a week or every other week on the day they are scheduled

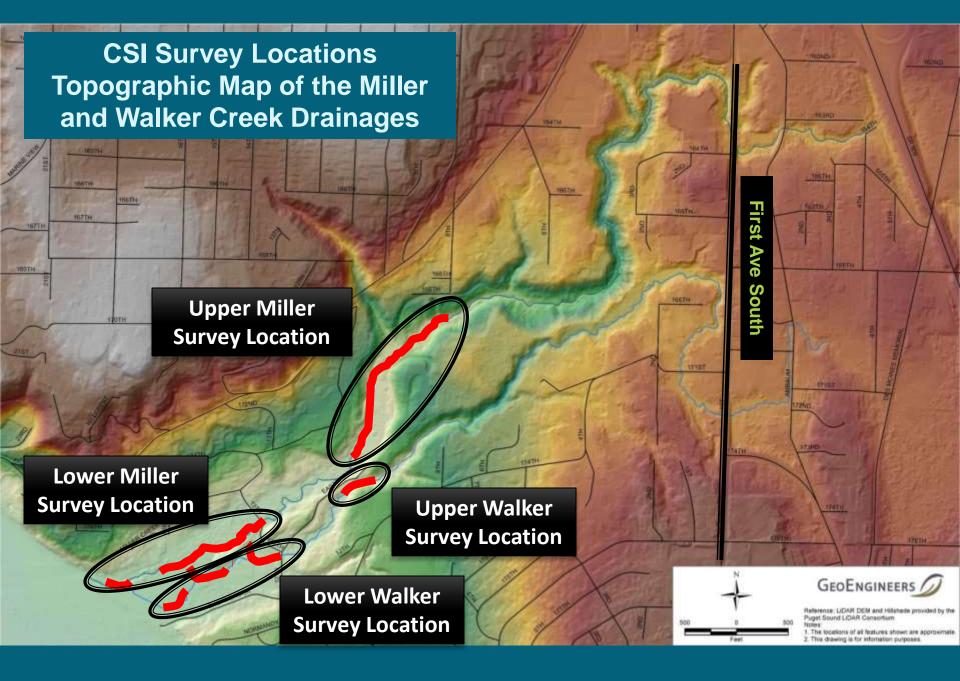
When do we stop surveys?

Sometime between Christmas and the end of January, when we haven't seen any live adult salmon for 10 days.



#### **Survey Locations**

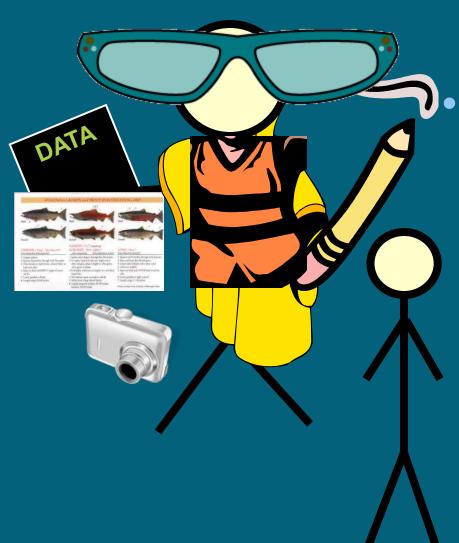
- Four locations
  - Two on Miller Creek
    - Lower Miller Private, The Cove, and Adams property (Call Adams' in advance)
    - Upper Miller Sewer District and Fish property
    - (Above 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S. not surveyed not many fish and difficult access)
  - Two on Walker Creek
    - Upper Walker Beffa, Backstrom, Henry properties (Note: shorter than last year, go out and back)
    - Lower Walker The Cove, Swim Club



#### Looking for live and dead fish



### **What To Bring**



- Data sheets
- Car ID sheet for dash
- Lock combo & phone numbers
  - Salmon ID materials
  - Digital Camera /mobile
  - Pencils NO pens, please!
    - Polarized glasses
    - Raingear & waders
  - A Buddy! (for fun & safety)
    - Orange vest (for safety)
      - Walking stick

#### Safety

- Surveying is not worth risking life or limb over.
- ALWAYS THINK! Using your brain is the best way to stay safe. If an activity seems "wrong," your brain is telling you: "Don't do it."
- ALWAYS survey with a partner. If team members disagree about what to do, go with the more "conservative" course of action.
- Do NOT survey when water is flowing fast and deep – if you can't see into the water, it is probably too fast/deep for you to survey safely (and you wouldn't see fish anyway).
- Do NOT survey during windy conditions because of falling tree branches.

#### Safety

- Be aware of and avoid hazards:
  - Slipping on mud, vegetation and wet rocks
  - Falls on slopes/streambanks
  - Unstable footing as logs or rocks roll
  - Poke in the eye from branches
  - Scrapes from branches
  - Stinging nettles, blackberries
  - Cuts from knife/gutting tool
  - Hypothermia from getting wet and cold
  - Bee stings especially if allergic
- Stop surveying if anyone is hurt, wet or too cold

#### Safety – Other Good Ideas

- Carry a cell phone in a Ziplock or watertight bag.
- Keep your keys & other valuables in a zipped/velcroed pocket so they don't fall out.
- Contact your sampling partner and make arrangements on the time and place you will meet.
- Each team should decide on a lead. The lead is responsible for making sure someone surveys on your day and bringing the survey kit unless other arrangements are made.
- Take a CPR and/or Wilderness First Aid course

#### **Emergency Procedures**

- In case of emergency, call 911
- Know how to get to the nearest Emergency Room:

**Highline Medical Center** 

16251 Sylvester Rd SW

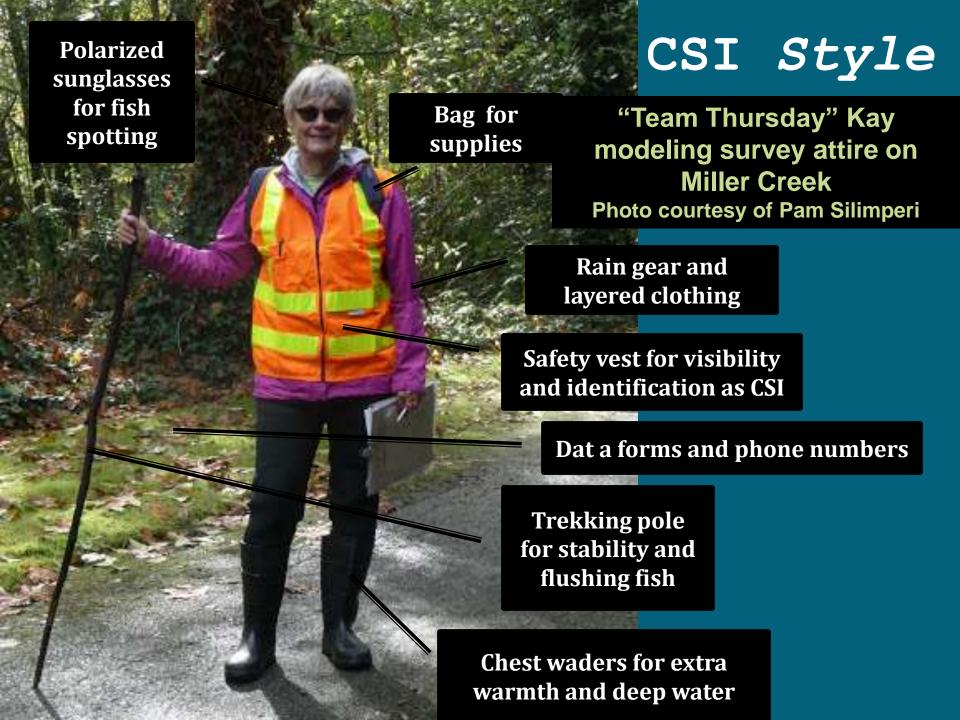
Burien, WA 98166

(206) 431-5314

#### Keeping invasives out

- Use dedicated boots and stick
- If boots have been in other creeks, disinfect:
  - 5 minutes in water over 140 degrees
  - Freeze overnight
  - Brush off all visible dirt
  - No felt soles

See King County web page on New Zealand Mud Snails



## **Recording Data**

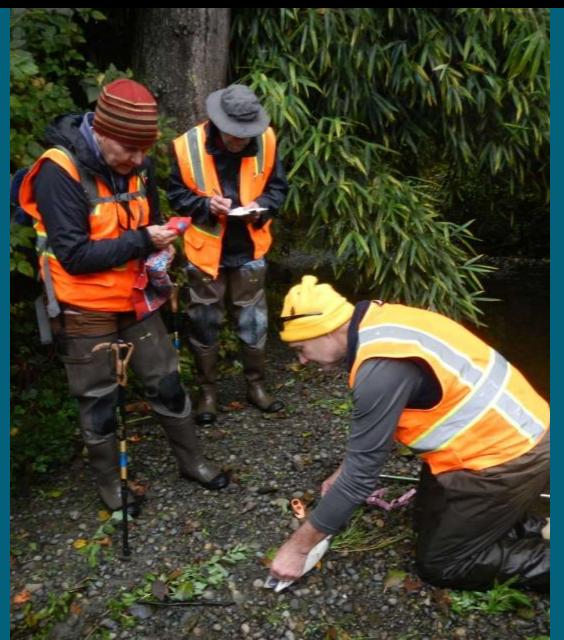
#### Daily Survey Sheet - Community Salmon Investigation for Highline

Date: 11 / 19	15 am	End '	Time	12:0	0 pm	W	/eath		Sur		Clou		Creeks Rainy Water Level at Co	(norther		
Dead Adult Fish Fish ID#	Species	Fork	Fish Girth	POH (cm) 36	Ad Fin? (Y/N)	Sex (M/F)	% Egg		30000	Spawning Condition			(general location, extent of any signs of predation, etc.)			
							0-50	50-100	PSM	POST	UNK	(Y/N)				
Example: 10-15-12_01	coho	52	40					х	Х		1	Y	Bites out of back. Full of eggs.			
Lower Walker 11, 19, 13 - 01	Chum	82.5	44	63	Y	М	11				Х	N	Gills still bright red. Beautiful fish			
11-19-13-02	Ziho	54.5	23.5	43	N	1/1					×	N	Tail fin worn. Testes pink & heflated Forget to clip off snowt Gills pinkish, fine & skyr in good shape			
11 19-13-03	coho	60.0	31.5	47	Y	F		Х	X			N	Gilled pinkish, Firs s skir i Found above waters'edge	n good shape,		
				-												
Fork Length = distance : PSM = Pre Spawn Morta Live <u>Adult</u> Fish	from tip of si lity (not span	nout to fork wned), POS	in tail. T = Pos	POH =	distance g. UNK =	from ba unknow	ck of ey n spawr	e to bend i	tail. on (fem	Ad = adipo nales) or m	ise fin ale fish.	Predate	d = evidence that another animal bit or at	e the fish.		
Location	Coho			Chum			Other Adult Fish (record here if not 100% sure of species ID)				Notes Regarding Adult and Juvenile Fish, Wildlife, Stream Condition (flow volume, clarity, presence/absence of foam)					
ower Miller	-0		0		3				that flow volume, water claimty not very good Brow tea-stained (tanning?) + Some sedimends							
ower Walker	0		T		0								4.50			
Jpper Walker	0		Ď		0											
Ipper Miller	0		0		0				V			4				

#### Dead fish = carcasses

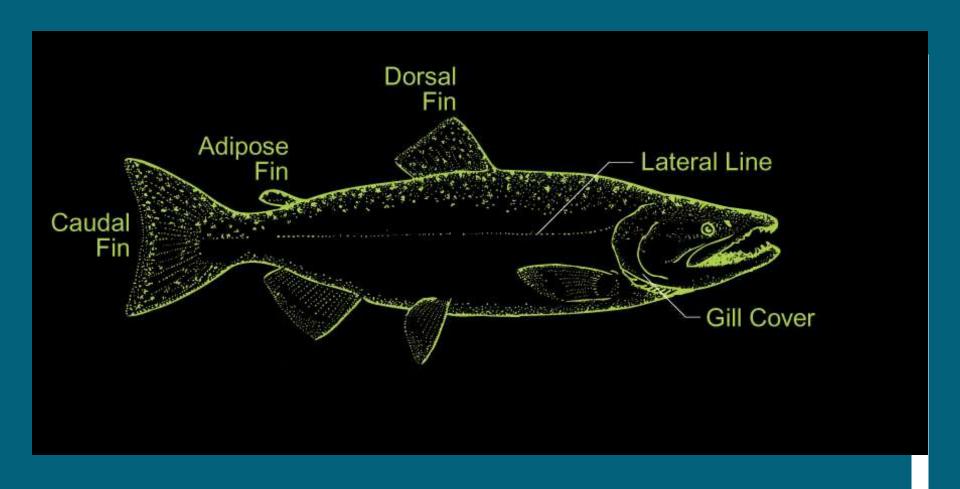


#### Measure and Check for Adipose Fin

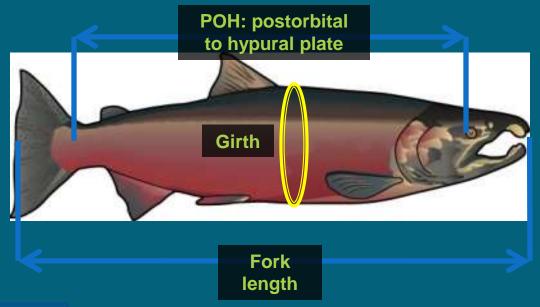


"Team Monday"
Joy, Roger &
Michael – it takes
teamwork
October 15, 2012

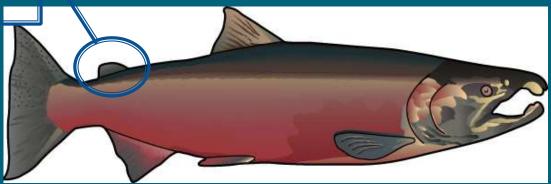
#### **Key Identification Features**



#### Measuring Carcasses & Hatchery Origin



Adipose fin



## **Recording Data**

#### Daily Survey Sheet - Community Salmon Investigation (CSI) for Highline

Date:			Team Members:													
Start Time End Time					_	Weath	Sur	SunnyCloudy			lyRainy	Water Level at Cove Beach:				
Live <u>Adult</u> Fish																
Location	Coho			Chum			Other <u>Adult</u> Fish (record here if not 100% sure of species ID)			0%	Notes: Which reach surveyed, adult and juvenile fish, wil flow volume, water clarity, presence/absence of foam					
Lower Miller																
Lower Walker																
Upper Walker																
Upper Miller																
Dead <u>Adult</u> Fish Fish ID# and	Species	Fork Length	РОН	Fish Girth	Ad Fin?	Sex	% Egg Retention Spawnin (dead Condition females)							(general k Formon	Notes continuous Notes continuous Notes continuous Notes (Notes Notes No	
Location		(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(Y/N)	(MF)	0-50	50-100	PSM	POST	UNK	Y/N	Y/N			
Example: 101513_01 LwrMir	coho	52	40	36	Y	F		Х	х			N	N	Example: Below	bridge 2. Full of eggs.	
	* *	- 8		* ×	- 3		S - 3									
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,															
	8	9														

PSM = Pre Spawn Mortality (not spawned), POST = Post spawning, UNK = unknown spawning condition. Predated = evidence that another animal bit or ate the fish.

Version 9/30/2015

## Cut Open – Check for Eggs/Milt



### Check for Pre-Spawn Mortality (PSM)



### Females – Egg Retention



#### **Evidence of Predators**

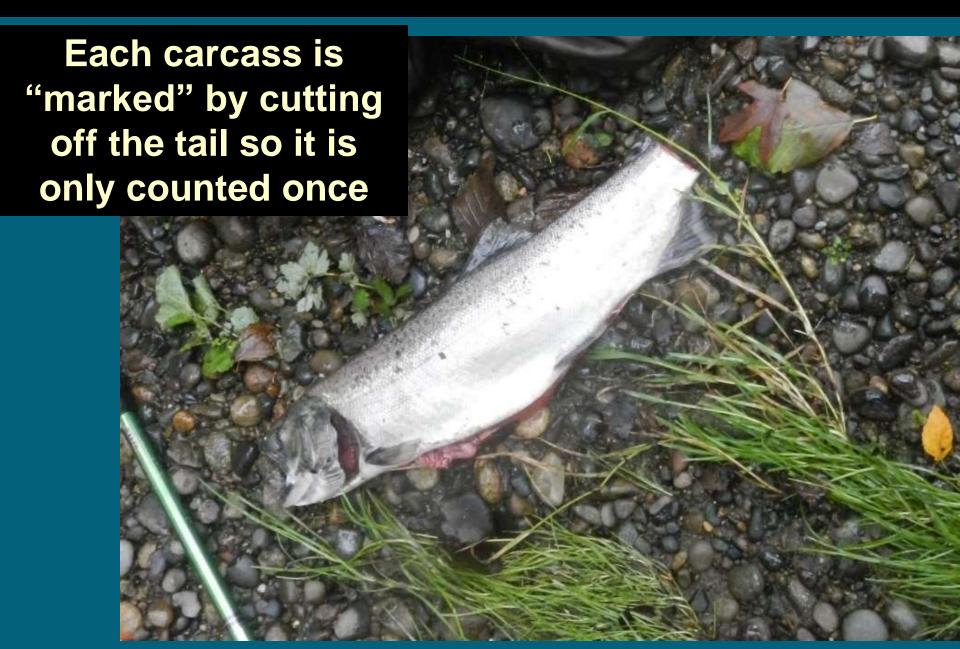


# Collecting Coho Snouts for Coded Wire Tags – Bag, write ID #, note

on form



## Count and Mark All Dead Fish



## Redds – egg nests in gravel



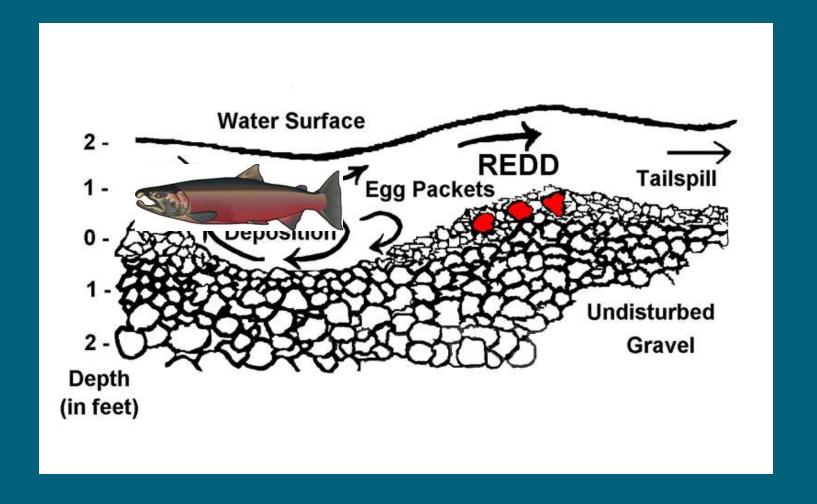
## Recording data

Date: 11/13/13 Start Time 9/35		Team Members: May WALLACE Site: Miller and Walker Creeks (circle one or both)												
		End Time_		12	40	W	Veather:		Sunny		Cloudy	dy X	Rainy Water Level at Cove Beach:	
Dead Adult Fish Fish ID#	Species	Fork Length	Fish Girth	РОН	Ad Fin?	Sex	% Egg Retention (dead females)		Spawning Co.		dition	Predated?	(general location, exient of any signs of predation, etc.)  For more dead fish, see Page 2	
and Location		(cm)	(cm)	(cm)	(Y/N)	(M/F)	0-50	50-100	PSM	POST	UNK	(Y/N)	TO BE THE SECOND OF THE SECOND	
xample: 101513_01 ower Miller	coho	52	40	36	Y	F		X	Х			Y	Bites on back. Full of eggs.	
LM_01	coho	56	26	46.5	N	F	05			X		N		
LM-02	colo	60	30	46,5	N	<i> </i>		100	X			N		
M-03	roho	613	305	49.5	N	F	1 0	100	X	+5"		N	(4	
NI NH	colis	585	25	48	N	F	\$			X		N		
MAS	malex												Backhalt gone	
PSM = Pre Spawn Morti		from back wned), PO	of eye to ST = Pos	bend in spawnir	tail, Loc ng, UNK	ation cod unknov	ies: Lw m spaw	nMir = Lov ning cond	ion. Pr	LwrWk edated = 6	r = Lowe evidence	r Walker, that anot	UprWkr = Upper Warker, UprWir = Upper Miller har animal bit or ate the fish.	
Live <u>Adult</u> Fish								1						
Location	Coho		Chum			Other Adult Fish (record here if not 100° sure of species ID)								
Lower Miller														
_ower Valker	[1]							6					8	
Jpper Walker														
Upper Miller														

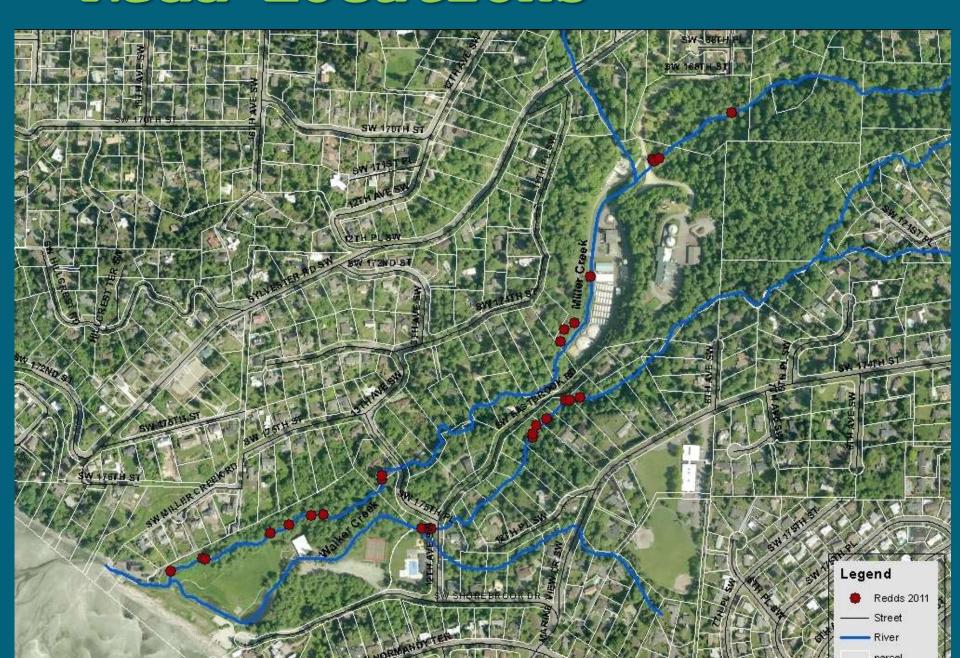
Version 9.25,2013

location, species, and flagging that YOUR team placed):\_

### Redd



## Redd Locations



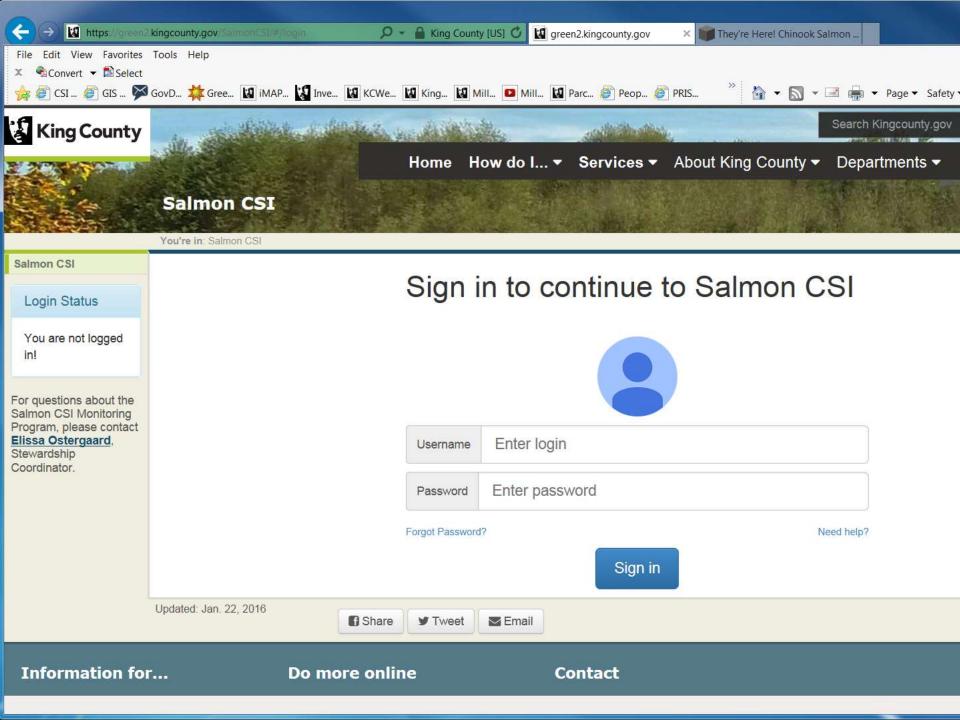


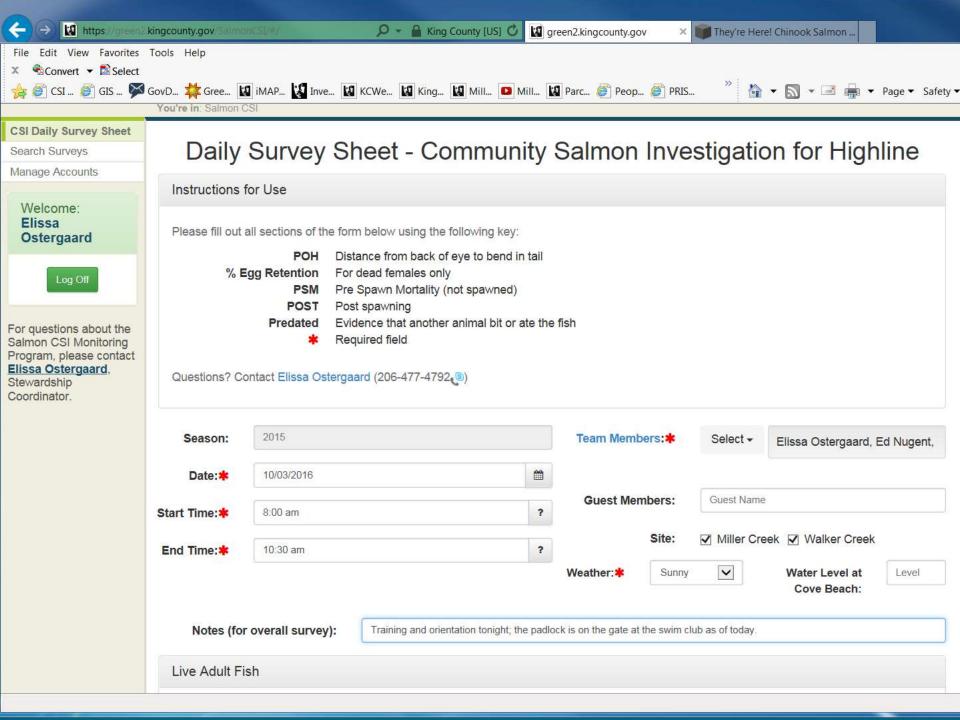
### **Entering Data**

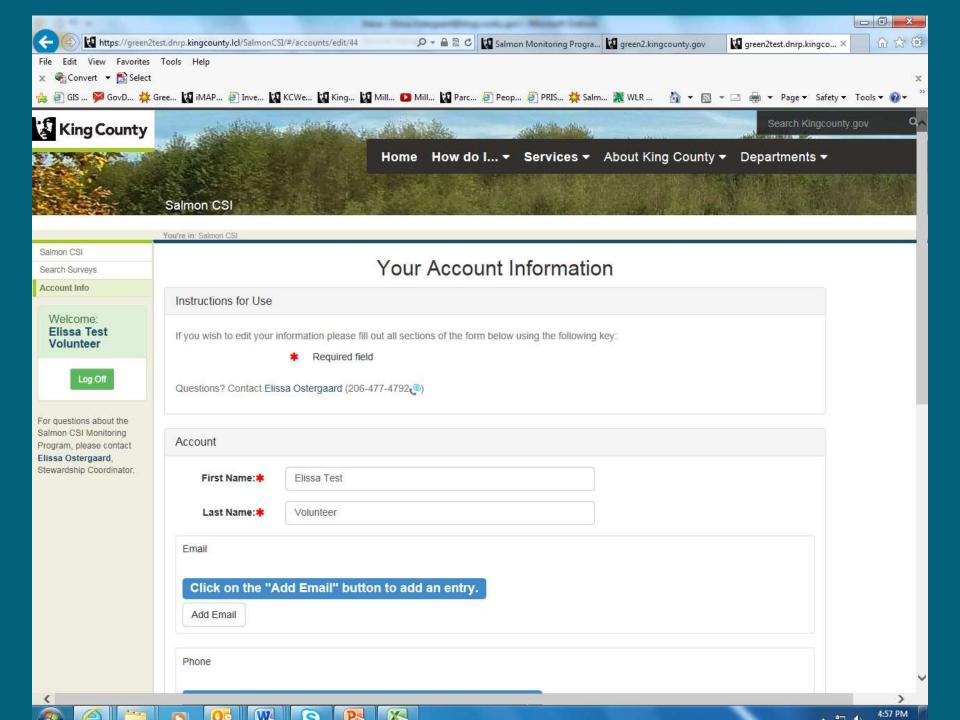
Enter data into web form within 3 days of survey:

https://green2.kingcounty.gov/SalmonCSI

- Pick a username and password if you don't have one already
- Save paper data sheets and turn them in at the end of the season with frozen coho snouts

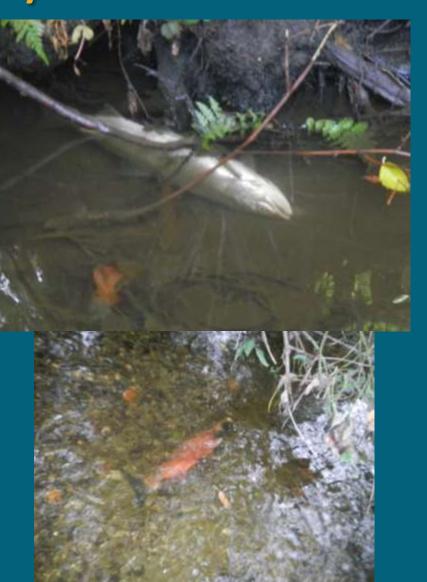






## Pre-spawn Mortality

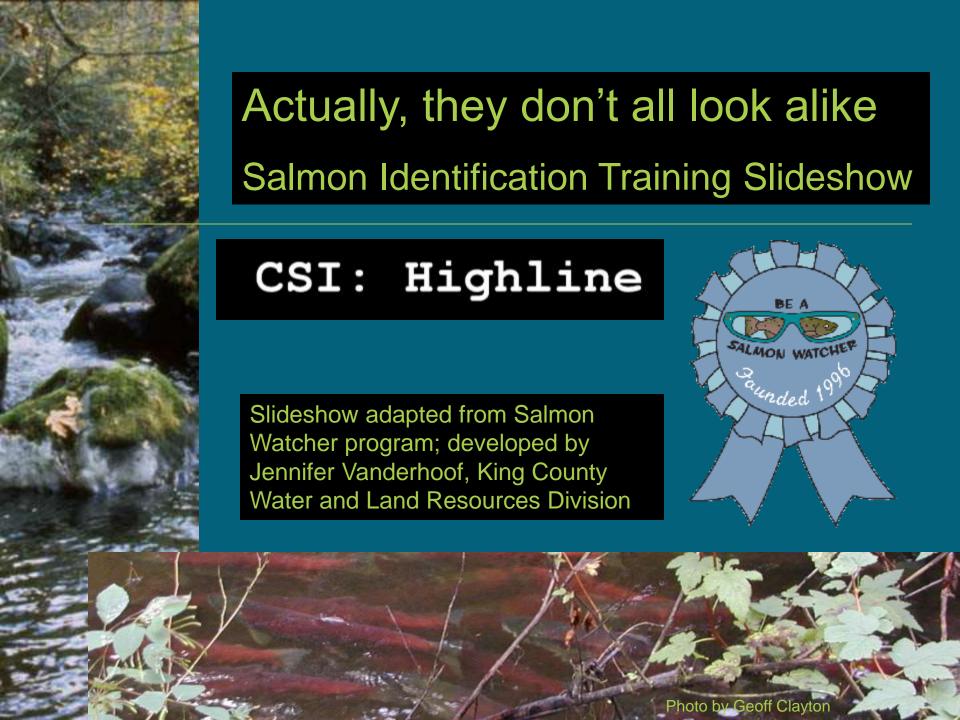
- Symptoms:
  - Swimming slowly, near the surface
  - Gaping, fins splayed
  - Bumping into things
  - On their side, barely moving, still fresh



## If you see symptomatic fish

- Take video
- Post it to YouTube
- Write down date, time, exact location
- Send me the link I'll share with NOAA

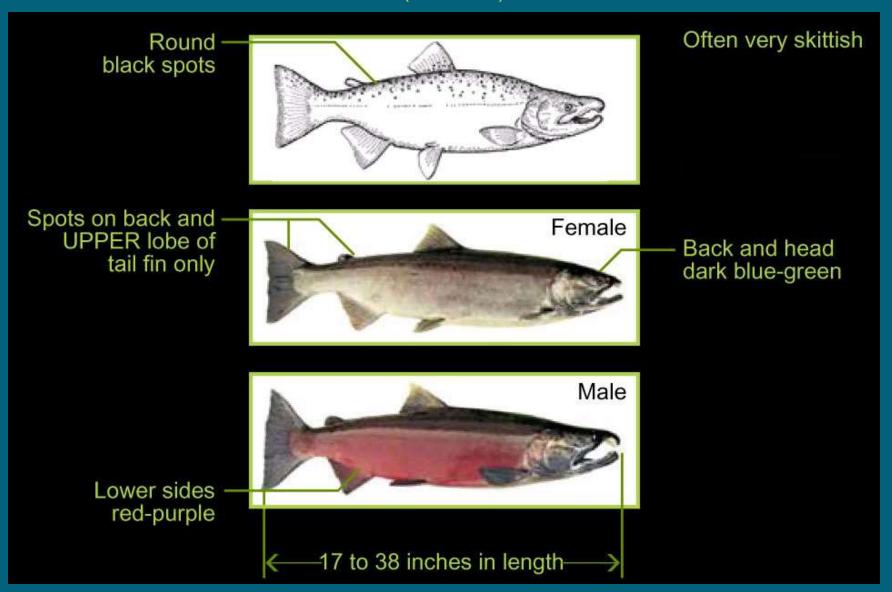
- Call UW so they can take water and tissue samples to find out what is causing it!
  - See survey instructions for phone numbers for Bowen Du, Jonathan Lofton, and Ed Kolodziej



# Questions to Ask When Identifying Salmon:

- 1. Size
- 2. Spots
- 3. Color
- 4. Other behavioral characteristics

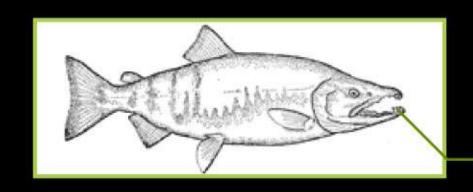
## Coho ("Silvers")



#### Coho



#### Chum ("Dog", "Keta")



Well developed teeth

No distinct black spots



Dark blue above with reddish-purple vertical markings



- 30-42 inches in length

#### Chum



Photo courtesy of Nitinat River Hatchery, BC, Canada

#### Chinook

("King," "Tyee," "Blackmouth")

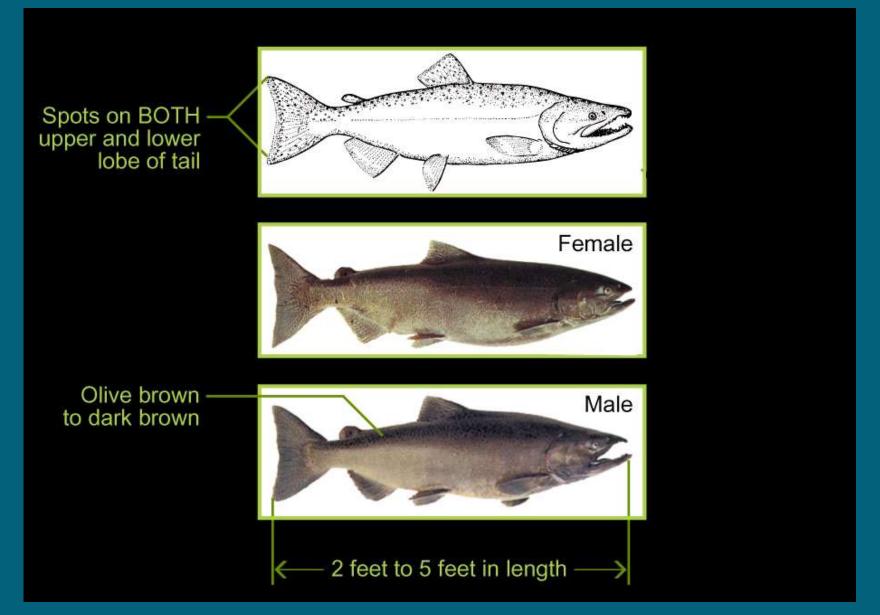




Photo by Geoff Clayton

#### Pink, or Humpback



Only spawn in odd years (2011, 2013, etc.)

Large oval spots on back and both lobes of the tailfin

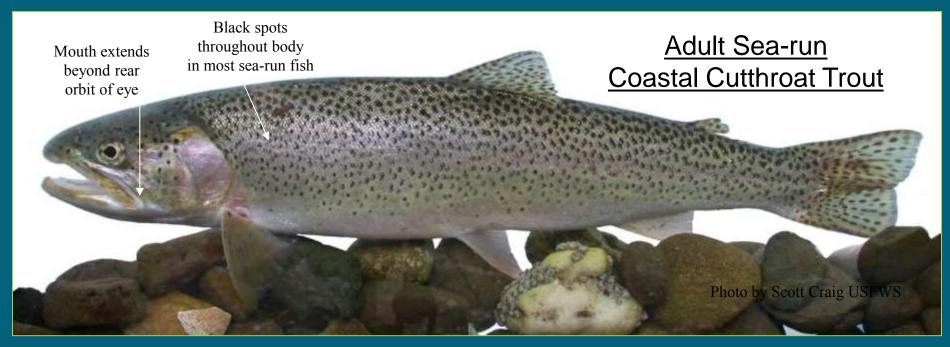


Males develop a large hump on their back (hence the nick name "Humpback" or "Humpy")

Pink salmon spawn in central and south Puget Sound drainages ONLY in ODD numbered years



#### **Cutthroat Trout**



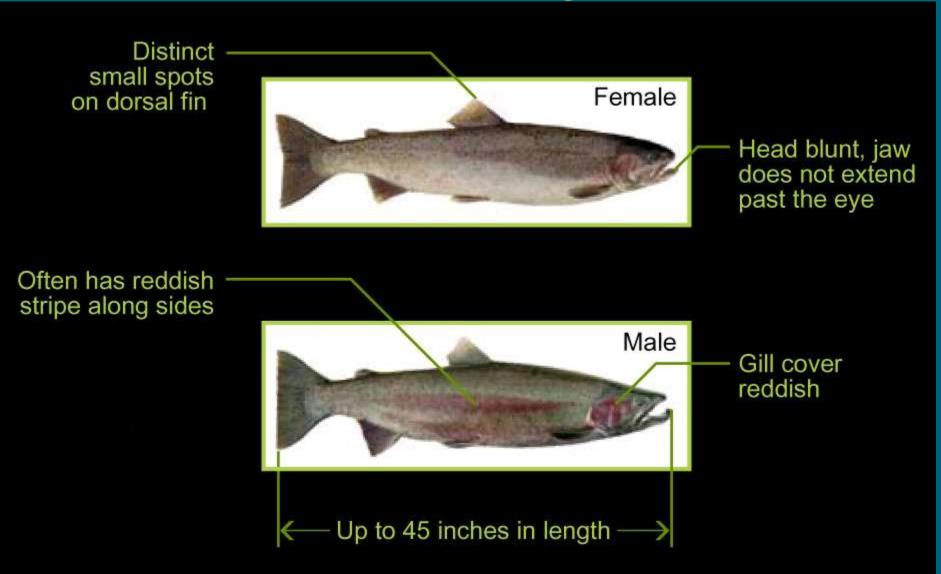
You will likely only see juvenile cutthroat trout.
Coastal streams may see sea-run coastal cutthroat late in the season.

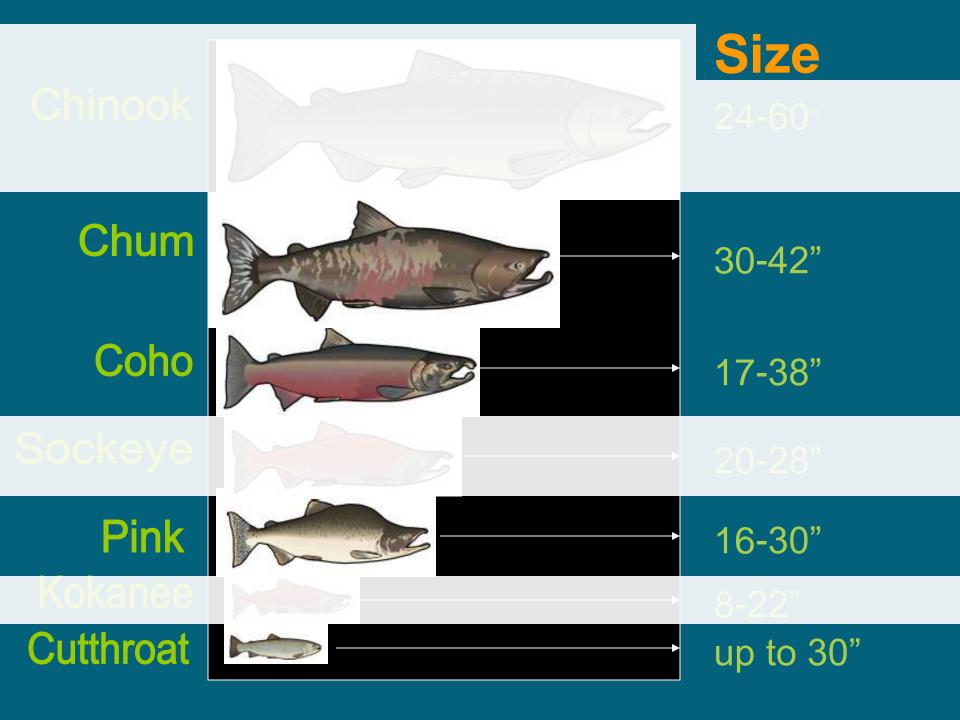
Length = 6-8"

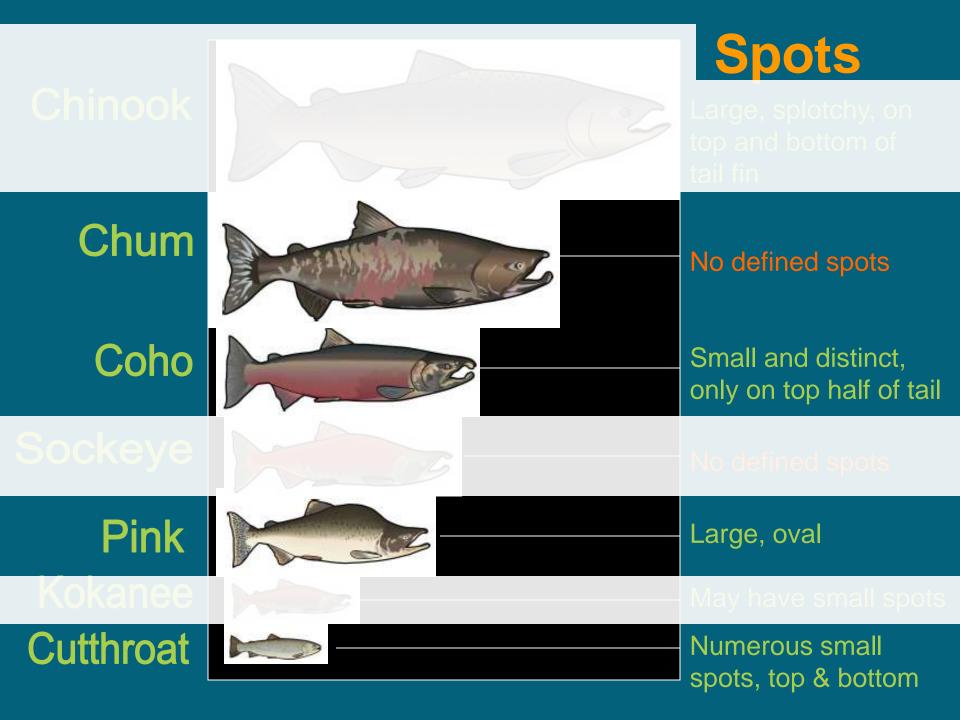


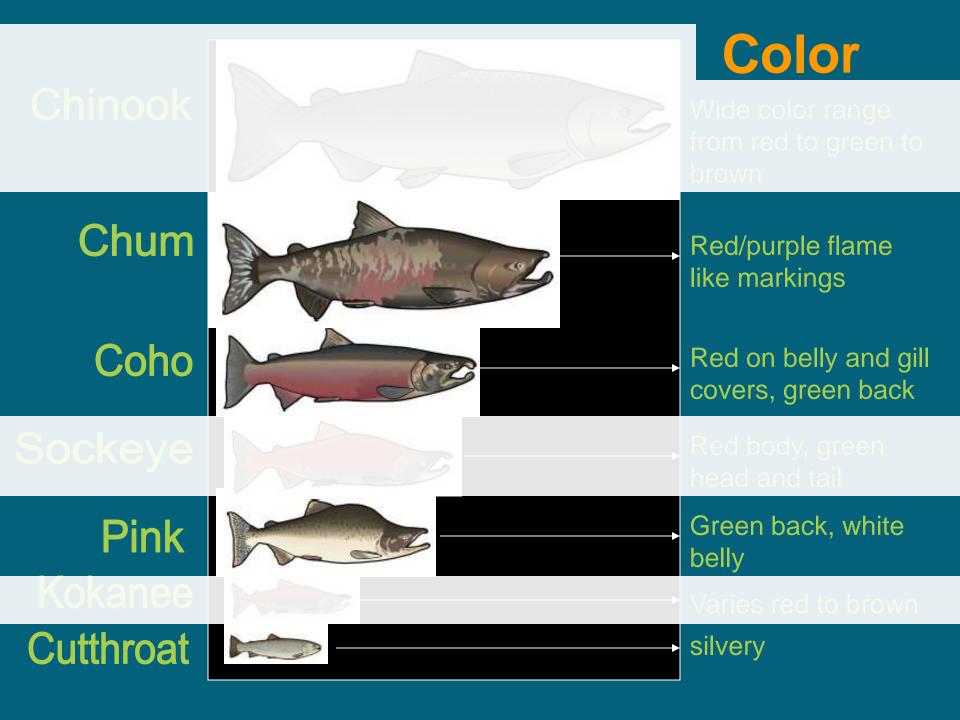
Photo by Rodney Hsu

#### Steelhead Trout: Spawn in Winter VERY RARELY SEEN









# 3) Review

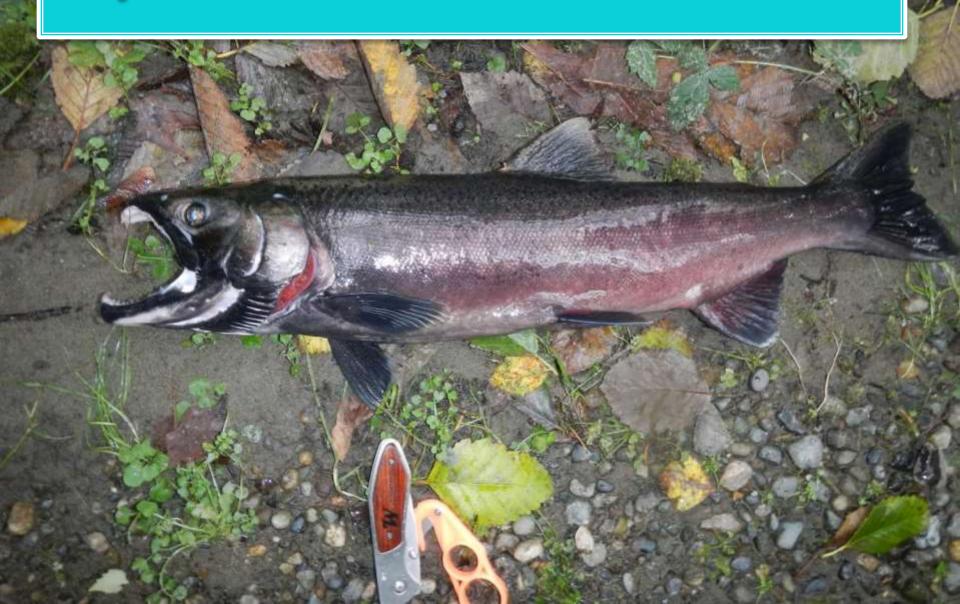




Photo by Greg Brown, National Park Service



Photo by King County Staff



Photo by Chris Carrel, Friends of Hylebos Wetlands









## **Important Tips!**

- View after a rain, as soon as the water clears
- Use polarized glasses and a walking stick
- Be there before it gets too dark
- Wear dark clothes (except your safety vest) and move slowly – sudden movements or loud talking might frighten fish
- Walk lightly on banks when possible
- Put the CSI placard on your car dashboard

## **More Important Tips**

- Call Elissa if you have any questions -(206) 477-4792 or cell (206) 707-6549
- Stay on the properties who have allowed access at all times (unless you are the property owner).
- Call the Adams when you start your survey and leave a message: (206) 588-1776

#### **Good CSI Skills**

- Enter data and turn in datasheets within 3 days of your survey, even when you didn't see fish. We want your data! No matter what!
- Turn in a datasheet with all dates and survey times, including those when you didn't see fish.
- Mark the fish ID # and reach location on data sheets and on plastic bags with snouts.
- Always put in a fish species name. If there is a live or dead fish count, there should be a species.
- Always putting surveyors names on datasheet. Take credit!



http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/beavers.aspx



#### Teams and Scheduling

- Monday Joy & Roger, Michael & Carlyn
- Tuesday Kristine & Liesl
- Tuesday –Pam & Kay
- Wednesday Lee & Margy
- Wednesday Dahli, Brenda & Terri
- Thursday John & Erik (late start)
- Thursday Sherril & Seth
- Friday –Ed & Matt

#### Teams and Scheduling

- Saturday –Lisa and Nick
- Saturday Ashley, Shelby & Meghan
- Sunday Robin & Drew
- Sunday Ryan & Nick R.

- Who doesn't have a survey day?
- Holidays: Weds 11/11, Thurs 11/26, Fri 12/25
- Access during weekends and holidays

### Teams and Scheduling

- Backup volunteers
  - Steve H.
  - Terri L.
  - Barb C. (Fridays)
  - Craig K.
  - Kerry & son (weekends)
  - Patrick H.

#### **Equipment and Waivers**

- Please fill out and turn in the liability waiver.
  One for EVERY surveyor.
- Teams with day assignments: pick up ONE survey kit
- Backups: borrow a kit or use the one in the orange bucket
- Everyone get a survey vest
- Optional: knife, snips, grippy gloves
- Return your equipment clean at the end of the season



Thank you for your contribution! We couldn't do it without you.

# You put the COMMUNITY in Salmon Investigations

CSI: Highline